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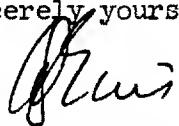
Mr. Lawrence Houston  
 General Counsel  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Houston:

The Federal Bar Association, in the interest of its members, has undertaken to assemble information which may affect the status of lawyers employed in the Government service. While the legal staffs of the executive agencies may, by and large, not have been recruited through the civil service, there is no doubt that the head of each legal division has taken significant steps to insure that his staff is an effective one composed of qualified attorneys chosen on a merit basis.

In order to present this fact effectively and to illustrate whether most of the lawyers now in the Government have obtained and continued to hold their jobs because of ability and skill, rather than for any other reason, it would be greatly appreciated if you would advise me of any written or oral examinations, review of records, or any other method used in your agency (since about 1947) to establish the merit of the attorneys being employed.

Sincerely yours,

  
 William L. Ellis  
 President

**The Federal Bar Association**

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: COLUMBIAN BUILDING

Washington 1, D. C.

**OGC HAS REVIEWED.**

January 9, 1953

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